Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for treating chronic wounds comprising:

applying a nonpyrogenic, biocompatible wound dressing to a chronic wound of a subject, wherein the wound dressing comprises water and from 1.5%, by weight to 7% by weight of microbial cellulose, and wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than ~~75%~~ 60% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

2. (previously presented) The method for treating chronic wounds of claim 1 comprising the additional step of:

changing the wound dressing once weekly.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing comprises from 3% to 7% cellulose by weight.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing comprises from 4% to 6% cellulose by weight.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said chronic wound is a full or partial thickness chronic wound.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a venous ulcer.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a pressure ulcer.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a diabetic ulcer.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing exhibits a negative result in a Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) test (<0.5 EU/ml) and is thereby nonpyrogenic.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the wound dressing exhibits a negative primary irritation test in rabbits and a negative cytotoxicity test using marine L929 cells, and also passes a guinea pig sensitization test and is thereby biocompatible.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the wound dressing absorbs a weight of liquid equal to about 20% to about 200% of the wound dressing's weight.

12.-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method for preparing a wound dressing comprising:

statically producing a microbial cellulose pellicle using *Acetobacter xylinum*;

isolating the pellicle with a cellulose to water ratio in the range of about 1:100 to about 1:500;

drying the isolated pellicle to a cellulose content of 1.5 to 9 wt.%; and forming a wound dressing by cutting the isolated pellicle.

20.-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing promotes autolytic debridement and removal of necrotic tissue in chronic wounds.

27. (currently amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing performs better in cleansing wound margins and promoting epithelial migration compared to a ~~non-adehsive~~ non-adhesive gauze dressing.

28. (previously presented) A method of claim 1 wherein a lower median number of days are required to attain 75% or more granulation than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

29. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein a lower median number of days is required to attain 50% or more epithelialization than for a chronic wound treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

30. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject associated with the wound, ranges from none to mild.

31. (previously presented) A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject is less than that which is experienced by a subject treated with a non-adhesive gauze dressing.

32. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the microbial cellulose wound dressing consists essentially of water and from 1.5 to 4.5 wt.% of microbial cellulose, wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

33. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the microbial cellulose wound dressing consists of water and from 1.5 to 4.5 wt.% of microbial cellulose, wherein the wound dressing absorbs fluid exudate from a chronic wound and donates greater than 75% of its liquid weight to a dry or necrotic portion of a chronic wound.

34. (currently amended) In a method of treating a wound of a subject where pain is associated with the wound, the improvement comprising applying a dressing comprising from 1.5% to 9 wt% microbial cellulose and water to the wound of a subject in need thereof, which

reduces the pain experienced by the subject compared to the pain experienced when a non-adhesive gauze dressing is used.

35. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the wound dressing comprises from 1.5% to 6% cellulose by weight, and wherein said wound dressing donates grater than 70% of its liquid weight to said dry or necrotic portion of said chronic wound.